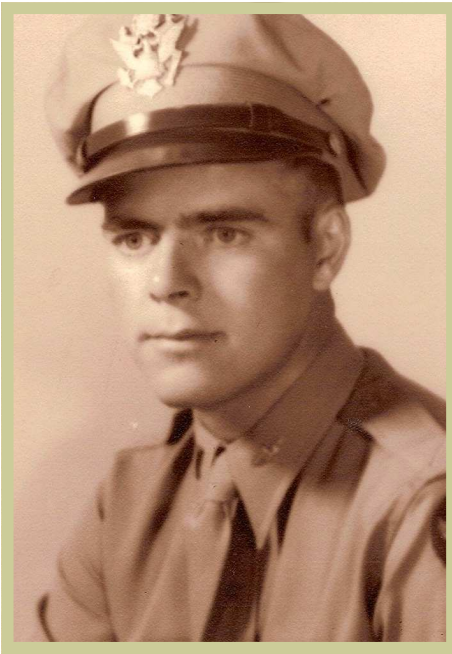


# Walter H Sale

## U.S. Army Air Corps

B-17 Navigator/8th Air Force/457th Bomb Group/751st Bomb Squad



**WALTER HARRY SALE**  
FLEW 30 MISSION IN B-17

This is my father's story. His name is Walter Harry Sale, son of Walter Samuel Sale and Teresa Ellen Sale (maiden name. Holwick). Walter Sale was raised as a child on Shulte Ave. in St. Louis. Walter went to school at Beaumont High School where he was on the rifle team. During his high school years he delivered groceries and prescriptions and worked at a drugstore soda fountain. After graduating from high school, Walter attended college at Harris Teacher's College and later Missouri School of Mines.

My father and his friends heard the news on December 7, 1941 about Pearl Harbor being bombed and they all decided to join the service. My father enlisted in the Army Air Corps. He trained at the University of Michigan and in Pyote and San Marcos, Texas before being sent overseas to serve as a B-17 navigator for the Army Air Corps, 8th Air Force, 457th Bomb Group, 751st Bomb Squad, flying missions from slightly after D-Day for 8 months. He was an enlisted man from Feb. 1943 through April 1944 and an officer from April 8, 1944 through Oct. 9, 1945 and flew his 30 missions from July 16, 1944 through March 8, 1945. While in Pyote, Texas, he met and proposed to Reba Inez Powers after meeting her at a USO dance telling her that they would marry af-

ter he returned from service.

The location of the Airbase where he was stationed was near the small town of Connington, England that is near Peterboro and the bases name was Glatton. He was with the Harold Gay crew and flew about one-third of his originally scheduled 35 missions. On a mission to Gaggenau, Germany his plane collided with another on September 10, 1944 and my father and another crewmember bailed out before the pilot regained control of the plane and flew it back to England. To this day, my father swears that the pilot gave the bail out signal but the official report says that the pilot did not. He landed very close to the German lines, but fortunately for him and his fellow crew member, they landed slightly in friendly territory. What remained of the French underground helped him and the other crew member along their way making it back to England.

My father and his fellow crewmember walked and thumbed their way back to Paris where there caught a flight to London. He then took the subway as far as it went north and walked and thumbed his way back to his base.

Upon returning to base, my father was sent to a Flak Home where all officers were sent at least once for rest and relaxation during their tour and if you bailed out or where shot down, you got to go again. Upon returning from R & R, he was given the opportunity to fly as a 2nd lead navigator. He was given this opportunity because he was meticulous with his records and paperwork during other bombing missions. His job was a back up navigator who flew in one of the lead planes for every mission. It was important work because each navigator in the lead plane checked on the other to make sure that the bomb group got to its intended target.

The lead plane carried the commanding officer for the mission. Because flying the lead plane was more dangerous than other positions, the number of missions that needed to be flown before you completed your tour was reduced from 35 to 30. Three days after my father started flying lead plane, his original crew, minus my father and one gunner, was shot down in the plane named Gini, on mission to Magdeberg, Germany on September 28, 1944. My father's original crew was all killed except for my father who was flying with other crews by then and Harry Thorenson who was a gunner. My father was not flying that day and Harry was in the hospital with a broken arm. Walter flew the following known missions:

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Date	Plane	Target	Pilot
Aug. 7, 1944	Pakawalup s/n 630	Nantiul Bridge, France	Harold Gay
Aug 11, 1944	Patches 'N Prayers s/n 532	Brest, France	Harold Gay
Aug. 18, 1944	Mighty Little John s/n 456	Huy, Belgium	Harold Gay
Aug. 24, 1944	Mighty Little John s/n 456	Weimar,	Harold Gay
Aug 25, 1944	Miss Cues/n 505	Peenemunde	Harold Gay
Aug. 27, 1944	No Name Found s/n 155	Berlin	Harold Gay
Aug 30, 1944	Pakawalup s/n 532	Keil	Harold Gay
Sept. 3, 1944	Ipana Smile s/n 123	Ludwigshafen	Harold Gay
Sept. 9, 1944	No Name Found s/n 155	Mannheim/Cologne	Harold Gay
Sept. 10, 1944	Nancy K s/n 42-97451	Gagenau	/Col./Karlsruhe Harold Gay
Sept. 19, 1944	Paper Doll s/n 998	Soest	Harold Gay
Sept. 25, 1944	Follow Me s/n 43-3801	Frankfort	Capt.Brackley/Lt. Col. Francis
Sept. 27, 1944	Liberty Belle s/n 301	Cologne	D. Ziegler/Capt/Mgr.W. Snow
Sept. 30, 1944	No Name Found s/n157	Munster	Vinton Mays
Oct. 14, 1944	No Name Found s/n 556	Cologne	W. Dawson/Capt. Wallace
Oct. 15, 1944	Que Up s/n 024	Cologne	Lt. Dawson
Oct. 17, 1944	No Name Found s/n 255	Cologne	Dale Jeffers
Oct. 25, 1944	No Name Found s/n 028	Hamburg Refineries	D. Jeffers/Capt. Doherty/Com.
Nov. 5, 1944	Ace of Hearts s/n 733	Frankfort	Raymond Lyons
Nov. 6, 1944	Miss Ida s/n 152	Harburg	Charles Schobert
Nov. 29, 1944	Name Not Found s/n 440	Misburg	Dale Jeffers
Dec. 6, 1944	No Name Found s/n 368	Merseburg	Dale Jeffers
Dec. 11, 1944	No Name Found s/n 028	Frankfort	Dale Jeffers
Dec. 12, 1944	Paper Warrior s/n 649	Lutzkendorf/Merseberg	Dale Jeffers/Maj. St. Ann
Dec. 18, 1944	Miss Ida s/n 152	Ardennes Offensive Germund	Dale Jeffers/Maj. McGuire
Jan. 3, 1945	No Name Found s/n 028	Cologne/Hermulheim	Arthur Ford
Jan. 13, 1945	Que Up s/n 024	Maxomiliansau	Arthur Ford
Feb. 15, 1945	No Name Found s/n 162	Dresden Marshall Yards	Charles Schobert/Capt. Anderson Mission Com.

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My father received Service medals including the European Campaign Ribbon with 2 bronze stars, Air Medal with 4 oak leaf clusters, Presidential Citation. After the war, my father and mother were married in late 1945. My grandmother, Teresa Sale tells the story that my father was so nervous after he got home that he couldn't drive the car for awhile so she drove him to Texas to be married and also accompanied them on their honeymoon.

After the war, he attended college at Rolla School of Mines in Rolla, MO. While attending school, I, Gerald R. Sale, was born on September 27, 1946 in Waynesville, MO. We later moved to St. Louis. My father took the trolley to where he worked at the American Smelting and Refining Company on Cut Street in Alton, Ill. He worked there from the middle 1940's until the early 1970's as a metallurgist.

After commuting for a couple of years from St. Louis to Alton, Ill., we moved closer to my father's work and then to Godfrey, Illinois, where my parents retired. In my father's later years he was very proud of the fact that after retiring at age 62, he went back to work and had a job from age 72 through age 81 with Anchor Windows and Siding. His latter years were spent taking care of my mother who had Alzheimer's disease. My mother passed away in 2003 and my father now has a wonderful lady to share his company.

Story by Gerald R. Sale for his father.

Walter Harry Sale  
St. Louis, Missouri  
Godfrey, Illinois